



Neighborhood Parks





Parks and Recreation Programming Space Master Plan

Bellaire Park

Type of Park: ***Neighborhood Park.***

Address: 500 Pecan Drive

Size of Park: 6.40 Acres



Comments – Similar to Vivagene Copeland Park and separated by a residential street, this park is an important social hub for the neighborhood and is loved and used by people of all ages. The park is located directly adjacent to Bellaire Elementary School, providing direct park access for the school children.

Trees in this park are mostly spread out in small clusters. There are large amounts of open areas available for multi-use sport activities. The playground unit is un-shaded. The unfenced school playground units are easily accessible and allow for use by residents. However, these also have no shade. The relatively large piece of open land to the west of the park is poised for the construction of a new church which renders opportunities to share amenities.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 baseball field (competitive)
- 0.33 miles of pedestrian trails
- 1 playground unit
- 1 bench
- 2 bleachers
- 2 drinking fountains

Parking: ***Off-Street:*** 46 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 3 spaces



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Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Bellaire Park:

- Provide shade structures at the children's play area.
- Add more trees for shade.
- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.
- Investigate the possibility of sharing facilities and amenities with the new church development including walkways, children's play areas and parking.



The competitive baseball field facility at Bellaire Park.



These mature post oak trees provide welcome shade to the park.



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Although large post oak trees provide shade at the edges of this facility, the play equipment itself could be shaded.



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Echo Hills Park

Type of Park: *Neighborhood Park.*

Address: 500 Heneretta Drive

Size of Park: 7.10 Acres



Comments – This neighborhood park has large open spaces, many shaded areas, and a large wooded area that has the visual impact of a small forest. Some observations include erosion, causing the undercutting of concrete and tree roots, especially near the drainage channel alongside the park.

The open drainage way is the result of a culvert / pipe that has been day lighted at this point along its course. Two homes along the drainage way and across from the park have open fences facing the park. Not only do the open fences provide excellent views from the houses to the park, but result also in informal surveillance that is generally beneficial in a neighborhood park setting.

A single loaded road borders the opposite side of the park, with homes on one side and the park on the other. This adds to the informal surveillance of the park.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 multi-purpose practice field
- 0.33 miles of pedestrian trails
- 1 playground unit
- 1 pavilion
- 8 picnic units
- 4 barbeque grills



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- 4 benches
- 1 drinking fountain
- 3 foot bridges

Parking: **Off-Street:** 13 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 2 spaces

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Echo Hills Park:

- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.
- Address the erosion on the site by mulching and encouraging the growth of underbrush and native grasses for example inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*).



Native shade loving grasses will provide erosion protection and change this area denuded of plants into a lush glade-like setting.



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Erosion causes the undercutting of the concrete walkway and the exposure of the tree roots.



The landscape treatment around the base of the park sign appears neat and well kept. However, regular and careful maintenance is required to ensure that the word "park" is not obscured.



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Highway 10 Neighborhood Park

Type of Park: *Neighborhood Park*

Address: 188 Arwine Drive

Year Built: Undeveloped

Size of Park: 3.6 Acres



Comments – This undeveloped neighborhood park has huge potential to be developed into a choice destination. The site is accessible from Arwine Drive and located along the east-west TXU easement that runs from Rickel Park to Billy Creek Park. The park is covered with a dense stand of indigenous vegetation.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- None, except informal walkways.

Parking: None

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Highway 10 Park:

- Prepare a design plan for the park that incorporates children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic amenities and a shaded pavilion without compromising the integrity and ecology of the site. Other than the environmental benefit, such an approach will require minimum maintenance effort.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses. Of special note is inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) that grows wild in the park.



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- Acquire additional land to the south of the park in order to enlarge the size and usability of the park. Place preference on land adjacent to Arwine Road in order to make the park more visible and accessible.
- Demand a single loaded road for any future development adjacent to the park to increase visibility and access to the park.



Highway 10 Neighborhood Park includes the mature stand of trees to the south (left in the picture) bordering the TXU easement that runs between Rickel Park and Billy Creek Park. Both Arwine Drive in the foreground and the TXU easement provide excellent access to the park.



The park site is characterized by a dense stand of mature indigenous vegetation. Future park development should recognize the importance of these trees and incorporate amenities in a sensitive manner both in terms of facility type and construction method.



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A small dry creek bed provides ecological and topographical interest to the park. Future park development should acknowledge the importance to keep this natural drainage way intact and functional. The grass in the picture is native inland sea oats, which is shade loving and well established under the leaf canopy.



Close-up image of the native grass species inland sea oats (Chasmanthium latifolium). Note the broad leaf blades and elegant seed heads that are characteristic of this remarkable shade loving indigenous plant.



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Hurst Hills Park

Type of Park: ***Neighborhood Park.***

Address: 575 Billie Ruth Lane

Year Built: Undeveloped

Size of Park: 4 Acres



Comments – This undeveloped parkland is well maintained by the City. There are large trees, wild flowers and the Walker Branch creek on the site with a vacant plot of land to the west between the creek and the park.

The park has a gently sloping topography that provides for various opportunities to create a unique neighborhood park. The park is located directly adjacent to Hurst Hills Elementary School. This provides the ideal opportunity to develop the park as a collaborative effort with the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District with amenities that can be used jointly by the school children and the residents.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- None

Parking: None

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Hurst Hills Park:

- Prepare a design plan for this neighborhood park that incorporates children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, areas for unorganized play, picnic amenities and a shaded pavilion.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including wildflowers and native grasses.



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- Consider developing the park as a collaborative effort with the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District with amenities that can be used jointly by the school and the residents e.g. playgrounds, a pavilion that can double as an outdoor learning shelter and parking.
- Investigate the possibility to acquire the plot of vacant land to the west of the park to add acreage to the park.
- Once the additional land is incorporated, design and develop an interpretive trail along the creek.



The huge trees between the school and the park create an impressive effect to be capitalized upon with the future park design.



A connection between the park and creek will add visual, ecological and, educational interest.



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The property between the park and the creek contains beautiful native wildflowers; the establishment of native plants should be encouraged in all City parks.



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Jaycee-Baker Park

Type of Park: ***Neighborhood Park.***

Address: 500 Belmont Street

Size of Park: 4.10 Acres



Comments – Jaycee-Baker Park has a good stand of pecan trees that provide great shade, making the space popular for daycare and families. The park has a unique sense of intimacy and openness. The colorful play equipment is in good condition.

A unique feature of this park is the adjacent creek. A wide band of native trees and grass at the edge of the concrete lined channel will add to a riparian character even if it is only to visually mark and acknowledge the existence of the creek.

Most amenities are in great condition but the restroom structure located in the park is in need of cleaning and renovation.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 backstop
- 1 multi-purpose practice field
- 2 playground units
- 4 picnic units
- 1 barbeque grill
- 6 benches
- 1 drinking fountain
- 1 restroom facility



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Parking:	Off-Street:	16 spaces
	On-Street:	0 spaces
	Handicap:	1 space

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Jaycee-Baker Park:

- Investigate the provision of visual access to the creek.
- Consider a wide band of native trees and grass at the edge of the channel in order to recreate a riparian character, which will add visitors' interest and will attract creek-associated animal and bird life.
- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.



A practice backstop is a typical recreational amenity provided in neighborhood parks.



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As a typical neighborhood park, Jaycee-Baker, is well maintained and well used by residents from the area who access it by foot.



Amenities at this park include picnic units, trash barrels, play equipment and a restroom. Walking areas are well defined by paving.



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Mayfair Park

Type of Park: *Neighborhood Park.*

Address: 1725 Norwood Drive
Year Built: Undeveloped
Size of Park: 6.1 Acres



Comments – The park is well kept but mostly undeveloped, featuring a few benches, a large open field, and clumps of large trees. Located close to a retail/business area and visually very accessible, the park has the potential to be developed into a handsome and well-used park with trails, seating areas and a gathering pavilion.

A drainage channel bisects this park. A possible jogging/biking trail could link this park via Mayfair Linear Park, following the creek to nearby L.D Bell High School and even to other parks nearby.

The park has no allocated parking. However, the park is located adjacent to a large church property with ample parking amenities. It is suggested that an agreement be reached with the church to share their parking with park users.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 backstop
- 1 multi-purpose practice field
- 3 benches

Parking: *None*

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Mayfair Park:



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- Prepare a design plan for this neighborhood park that incorporates children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, areas for unorganized play, picnic amenities, pedestrian bridge over the drainage way, and a shaded pavilion. The bridge and pavilion will have the potential to become popular with wedding ceremonies.
- Engage in discussion with the neighboring church for shared parking.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.
- Should the new Hurst Senior Activities Center be considered for development within Mayfair Park, it is essential that a planning study be completed to ensure that the site as a park facility is not lost and that the integrity of Mayfair Park is not compromised.



The option of parking shared with the adjacent church facility, should be investigated. In addition, a pedestrian connection across the creek will render the use of the park more versatile.



Large mature trees are located throughout the park.



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Redbud Park

Type of Park: *Neighborhood Park.*

Address: 525 Redbud Drive

Size of Park: 7.20 Acres



Comments – Redbud Park has a large open green space used as a soccer field while still maintaining a good amount of shaded areas. As indicated by the name the park features beautiful stands of redbud trees.

The west side of the park is fenced off from a concrete lined drainage way. This is unfortunate since even a concrete lined creek has qualities that merits controlled physical and visual access. In fact, a band of native trees and grass at the edge of the channel will add to a riparian character even if is only to visually mark and acknowledge the existence of the creek. Such plantings will attract bird and animal life and bring new interest to the park. Overall, Redbud Park is well maintained.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 soccer field (competitive)
- 2 backstops
- 1 exercise course
- 0.33 miles of pedestrian trails
- 1 playground unit
- 1 pavilion
- 5 picnic units
- 2 barbeque grills
- 4 benches
- 2 bleachers
- 1 drinking fountain

Parking: **Off-Street:** 34 spaces

On-Street: 10 spaces

Handicap: 2 spaces



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Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Redbud Park:

- Investigate the provision of controlled visual access to the creek.
- Consider a wide band of native trees and grass at the edge of the channel in order to recreate a riparian character, which will add visitors' interest and will attract creek associated animal and bird life.
- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.



Although the creek is concrete lined, the overall park experience will benefit from controlled visual access to the creek. It is suggested that the area between the walkway and the creek be planted with riparian trees and natural grasses.



View of the soccer field through a row of redbud trees.



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The play area is well defined and in good condition. Additional trees will add character and shade to the area.



The pavilion provides much needed shade and the opportunity for informal social interaction.



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Smith-Barfield Park

Type of Park: *Neighborhood Park.*

Address: 640 Pleasantview Drive

Size of Park: 6.90 Acres



Comments – A drainage channel bisects Smith-Barfield Park. The eastern section functions more as a play and picnic area while the western section features some sports amenities. The latter area could use more plantings to tie the two sections together. A steel bridge provides an exciting connection from the one section to the other. The permanent restroom structure is in need of cleaning and renovation.

There is a good possibility for a trail connection along the drainage channel to this park from the Hurst Athletic Complex.

It was noted that the tennis courts in this park are under-utilized and a skate park could be considered in its place. However, our impression is that this is not a good location for a skate park, due to the size of the park and its relative seclusion. We are of the opinion that a skate park should be provided in areas with high pedestrian traffic to ensure informal surveillance for general safety reasons.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 baseball field (competitive)
- 1 multi-purpose practice field
- 0.43 miles of pedestrian trail
- 1 playground unit
- 2 tennis courts
- 1 pavilion
- 3 picnic units
- 2 barbeque grills
- 1 bench
- 3 bleachers
- 2 drinking fountains
- 1 foot bridge
- 1 restroom facility



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Parking:	Off-Street:	38 spaces
	On-Street:	0 spaces
	Handicap:	1 space

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Smith-Barfield Park:

- Develop a landscape plan for the western portion of the park to tie it with the eastern side.
- Renovate the restroom structure.
- Investigate a trail connection along the drainage channel to the Hurst Athletic Complex.
- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.



The restroom facilities need to be renovated.



This upstream view along Lorean Branch illustrates the possibility to develop a trail connection between Smith-Barfield Park and the Athletic Complex along the west bank of the drainage channel.



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The play area contains an interesting climbing feature.



Tennis courts at Smith-Barfield Park..



Pedestrian bridge connection across Lorean Branch.



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Valentine Park

Type of Park: ***Neighborhood Park.***

Address: 610 Bedford Court West
Year Built: Undeveloped
Size of Park: 4.0 Acres



Comments – Valentine Park is a rectangular open green space tucked behind a few houses. The park is narrow: 120 feet wide and 1,300 feet in length. It is cut off from the neighborhood beyond by a fenced drainage channel called Lorean Branch. Vehicular access to this park is extremely limited since its entry is at the dead-end of a small residential street. Pedestrian access is limited from the west side only. Tree covering on this site is sparse.

Nevertheless, Valentine Park has tremendous untapped potential. It can be developed into a major destination for the neighborhood (from both the east and west side) by the provision of adequate pedestrian access. The creek can be made a visual attraction by widening the channel itself with access along its edge similar to what was done very successfully at Central Park.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 multi-purpose practice field

Parking: None

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Valentine Park:

- Through neighborhood planning, create a vision for this park in order to develop and incorporate the specific facilities and amenities that are needed.



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- Stimulate the residents' thinking by preparing a design plan for this neighborhood park that considers access including a gateway and signage, amenities including children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, multi-purpose practice fields, picnic amenities and a shaded pavilion.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.



This is a view from the east side of Valentine Park towards the west. Easy access is one of the most important factors that make a park usable and safe. Pedestrian access from the east side to the west side of the park will render it much more viable.



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This view is from the west side of the park, looking east.



This is a view looking north. The park lies to the west (left) of the drainage channel.



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Vivagene Copeland Park

Type of Park: ***Neighborhood Park.***

Address: 501 Pecan Drive
Year Built: 1996
Size of Park: 5.20 Acres



Comments – From informal discussions with elderly local residents it was evident that this park is the pride and joy of the neighborhood. In the evenings, it plays host to a variety of outdoor activities, from basketball games to kickball and even dodge ball. According to the elderly residents, the small pavilion is in the heat of the day markedly cooler than the surrounding area.

Vivagene Copeland Park is located in the midst of two high-density housing developments. The park provides much needed leisure-time activities to the residents of these apartments.

From informal discussions with park users, it was evident that the local residents are extremely proud of “their” park where they visit with friends and play ball games until late in the evening. One resident even took it upon herself to pick up trash whenever she walks through the park. Such proud “ownership” is extremely fortunate and should be fostered by the City through acknowledgement and support. “Eyes and ears” in the park can become an invaluable tool to identify issues of concern and the needs of the surrounding community.

The winding layout of the hiking trail is pleasing and invites leisurely strolling as well as serious jogging.



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The play area is well designed and located with the adjacent shade structure, fall zone landing material and ADA accessible ramp. However, it is in need of additional shade in and around the play area.



The park is well used by the community. These people from the neighborhood meet regularly at this park. Their presence is essential as it provides informal surveillance of the park. Users like these are in effect the eyes and ears of the community and are also an invaluable source of information on what the people's needs are.



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Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 6 basketball goals
- 1 multi-purpose practice field
- 0.33 miles of multi-purpose trails
- 1 playground unit
- 1 pavilion
- 3 picnic units
- 1 bench
- 2 drinking fountains

Parking: ***Off-Street:*** 15 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 1 space

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Vivagene Copeland Park:

- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.
- Provide a shade structure over the play equipment.
- Add lighting to the trail, especially the north section.
- Develop the remaining two half-court basketball courts.
- Consider opening up the park towards the north to create a connection with the adjacent community theater. This will allow the theater in turn to have a better “connection” with the neighboring community with outdoor theatrical events and even movies screened on the theater’s outside wall.
- Being an extremely popular park within the community, encourage residents to participate in the City’s Volunteers in Action (VIA) group.



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The apartments to the west of the park have direct access to the park ground. This allows for “ownership” and informal surveillance of park activities.



The apartments to the east of the park are fenced-off with no direct access to the park.



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Members of the community use the park for various activities, including jogging along the sidewalk.



This ball play area consists of two full basketball courts and two half-court basketball courts. It is recommended that the half-courts be developed into full courts.



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Wan-Ka-Kani Park

Type of Park: ***Neighborhood Park.***

Address: 748 Shady Lane
Year Built: Undeveloped
Size of Park: 4.10 Acres



Comments – This park features a mid-sized open picnic area with typical amenities. One part of the park is an open turf area with scattered trees; the other area is densely vegetated with natural surface trails crisscrossing the land.

Researching the history of Wan-Ka-Kani Park revealed the following:

The residential properties surrounding the park site were developed in the 1960's. The owner and/or developer originally designated the wooded area of the park as a "private park" allegedly to avoid paying the property taxes. During January 1976, the owner deeded the property to the City as parkland, and stipulated that it should remain "as a natural area and bird sanctuary for the use of the children".

Ms. Lynn Herber, who lived adjacent to the park, established a Campfire Girls group in 1968, and the group was named "Wan-Ka-Kani", which means "to be outdoors" in the Campfire Girls handbook. The Campfire Girls group organized a clean-up effort for the property, and 88 children from around Hurst spent a day cleaning up the property. The City provided trucks during the clean-up, and 16 dump truck loads of trash and debris were hauled away that day.

The City later acquired 4 lots on Shady Lane adjacent to the park, and this property was also designated as parkland. The City, in honor of the Campfire Girls group, named the park "Wan-Ka-Kani".



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The park won a national “Keep America Beautiful” award in 1976 due to the efforts of the Campfire Girls group.

The naturalness of this wooded area is beautiful with wildflowers and interesting topography changes. It is suggested that the wooded area be kept natural with interpretive trails and seating areas.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 1 natural area
- 4 picnic units
- 3 barbeque units

<i>Parking:</i>	<i>Off-Street:</i>	<i>0 spaces</i>
	<i>On-Street:</i>	<i>Available but unmarked spaces</i>
	<i>Handicap:</i>	<i>0 spaces</i>

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Wan-Ka-Kani Park:

- Prepare a design plan for this neighborhood park that incorporates children’s play areas, walkways, jogging trails, areas for unorganized play, picnic amenities and a shaded pavilion. Concentrate these amenities in the open area of the park.
- Implement restoration of the ground surface damaged by the impact of earlier BMX activity in the natural wooded area. At a minimum such a restoration effort will include soil amendment including the spreading of topsoil and mulch and extensive planting.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses for the park as a whole.



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BMX activity caused severe erosion and damage to the landscape through compaction of the soil and destruction of vegetation.



The wooded area is fenced off with no access allowed for bicycles.